

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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R 170530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,NOAF, IN, PK, US

SUBJ: VIEW FROM KABUL ON DAOUD'S INDIAN VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI 3600

1. GRATEFUL FOR EXCELLENT SUMMARY OF DAOUD VISIT CONTAINED REFTEL, AS WELL AS OTHER DELHI REPORTS ON SAME SUBJECT. KABUL MEDIA HAS PRINTED VIRTUALLY ALL OFFICIAL STATEMENTS VERBATIM AS AS WELL AS SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL ONES GENERATED DURING VISIT, ALL WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. WE ARE NOT SO MUCH STRUCK BY VEHEMENCE OF DAOUD'S STATMENTS IN RESPONSE TO U.S. LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO TO PAKISTAN, AS BY THEIR BEING PROJECTED INTO VIRTUALLY EVERY PUBLIC STATEMENT HE MADE IN INDIA.

3. INDIANS DID NOT, BY CONTRAST, APPEAR FROM REPORTS OF VISIT TO HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO HOP ON AFGHAN BANDWAGON AND TAKE
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EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN PAKISTAN AND UNITED STATES. WE

PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY MODERATE TONE OF MRS. GANDHI'S MARCH 11 INTERVIEW WITH UPI (NEW DELHI 3523). ESPECIALLY INTERESTED BY HER STATEMENT FAVORING "A STRONG PAKISTAN." A LINE WE HAVE TAKEN IN TALKS WITH AFGHANS AND WILL TAKE AGAIN. HER STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN WAS SIMILARLY NON-BELICOSE TOWARD PAKISTAN, AND IT MAY AT SOME POINT BE LIKE MONEY IN THE DIPLOMATIC BANK TO HAVE ON RECORD HER STATEMENT THAT INDIA WOULD LIKE TO PREVENT A SITUATION OF WAR BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN FROM ARISING.

4. IN SHORT WE GAINED IMPRESSION HERE THAT MRS. GANDHI "PUT DAYLIGHT" BETWEEN INDIAN AND AFGHAN VIEWS ON PAKISTAN AND THE U.S. NOR HAVE WE HEARD OF NOTABLE SUCCESSES OF AFGHAN EFFORTS TO GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING AMONG IRANIANS OR ARABS OF AFGHANISTAN'S HANDLINE POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN. THIS MAY NOT DIMINISH PRESIDENT DAOUD'S ARDOR FOR THE BALUCH AND PUSHTUN CAUSE, BUT IT COULD SERVE TO PUT IT INTO PERSPECTIVE OF HARD REALITIES.

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